Science and technological institutions for training youths

61. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of science and technological institutions under Government/aided by Government that conduct courses and training for the youths in the country;

(b) whether Government have proposed to set up more institutions of higher learning in the field of science and technology during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Promotion of Research and development

62. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government in the field of research and development in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that our country has not been able to pump in the required funds in the research and development sector; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) A substantial increase, more than double the 9th plan outlay, in the tenth plan outlay for S & T Departments is a clear indication of the commitment of the Government to the overall development of science and technology in the country. Presently, only 0.8% of GNP is devoted to R&D sector. While the plan outlay has been doubled, there is still need to increase the funding in the R&D sector. Government has taken a number of initiatives for the promotion of research & development in science and technology in the country. During the 10th Five Year Plan the Government has focused on generating relevant innovative technologies; preserving, protecting and adding value to indigenous resources; adopting an appropriate mix of traditional, conventional and modern technologies;